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ARIZONA STATE FIRE MARSHAL CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

The operation of a charter school brings with it some regulatory requirements which may be unfamiliar to educators unaccustomed to the administration of publicly funded schools in Arizona.

To assist you, Arizona Revised Statutes Section 15-183 requires the Department of Education to publish relevant rules, regulations and statutes to advise charter schools of their responsibilities. Paragraph 1, requires compliance with federal, state and local rules, regulation and statutes relating to health, SAFETY, civil rights and insurance.

Presently the Arizona Administrative Code (A.C.C.) R4-34-110, and Arizona Fire Code requires schools to be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 1988 editions of the Uniform Fire Code, Uniform Building Code, Uniform Mechanical Code and selected National Fire Code Standards. The State Fire Marshal is also mandated to conduct scheduled inspections in schools throughout Arizona. This includes charter schools.

Buildings procured for charter school use under ARS 15-189 are subject to the same requirements as any other public building. The office of the Fire Marshal will assist you by providing guidance regarding the suitability of lease space of any building contemplated for use as a charter school. **Construction documents for the remodel or modification of buildings are required to be reviewed and approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office for code compliance. This must be done before any construction, remodeling or modifications can be started.** When public funds are used to build, modify, alter or improve a structure, the design must be done under the direction of a registered architect in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Technical Board of Registration.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal for guidance in the required submittal of documents for the review and permit process. Buildings used for charter schools MUST comply to fire code standards PRIOR to occupancy by any students.

The following information is a PARTIAL SUMMARY of the most important fire code requirements. This summary is not to be construed as the complete requirements. They are provided only to give you an idea of what is expected. Complete requirements will be integrated at plan review. In addition, your school may be required to conform to local fire and building code requirements.

SOME BASIC BUILDING AND FIRE REQUIREMENTS

General Notes:

Charter schools that locate in commercial, retail or office buildings including in some cases churches, must be separated from those occupancies by fire rated separations as specified in the building code. In order to properly classify the uses in the building, a plan of the building shall be submitted showing: building dimensions, types of construction of partitions and of the building, as well as the adjacent business's use.

UFC 10.207.b

Fire apparatus access roads shall be required for every building hereafter constructed when any portion of an exterior wall of the first story is located more than 150 feet from fire department vehicle access.

UFC 10.301.c

An approved water supply capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to all premises upon which buildings or portions of buildings are hereafter constructed. When any portion of the building protected is in excess of 150 feet from a water supply on a public street, as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building there shall be provided on site fire hydrants, and mains capable of supplying the required fire flow.

UFC 10.312

A ventilating hood and duct system shall be provided for commercial type food heat processing equipment that produces grease laden vapors.

UFC 10.313.a

Approved fire suppression systems shall be provided for the protection of commercial type food heat processing equipment, producing grease laden vapors.

UBC 802.c

Rooms used for kindergarten, first, and second grade pupils and day care facilities for more than 6 children, shall not be located above or below the first floor, except for basements that have required exits at grade level.

Exception: 2. In buildings equipped with an Automatic fire sprinkler system throughout, ROOMS used for kindergarten, first and second grade children or for day care purposes, may be located on the second story, provided there are at least two exits from each room going directly to the exterior and going to two different exit paths provided for the exclusive use of such occupants. .

UBC 802.c

Storage rooms and janitor's closets shall be of one hour construction within E occupancies.

UBC 802.d

Laboratories, vocational shops and similar areas containing hazardous materials shall be separated from each other and from other portions of the buildings by not less than one-hour fire resistive occupancy separations.

UBC 803

All Group E occupancies shall front directly upon or have access to a public street of not less than 20 feet in width. The access to the public street shall be a minimum 20 foot wide right of way, unobstructed and maintained only as access to the public street. At least one required exit shall be located on the public street or on the access way.

UBC 807

Group E occupancies with total occupant loads of 50 or more in the school, shall have a class "A" fire alarm system installed.

UBC 808

No class I, II, IIIA liquids (Defined as flammable or combustible liquids) shall be placed, used or stored in any Group E occupancy, except in approved quantities, as necessary for use in labs, or approved utility rooms and shall be stored within approved storage cabinets as approved by the Fire Marshal.

UBC 808

A one hour fire resistive occupancy separation should be provided between rooms containing a boiler, central heating or hot water supply boiler exceeding an input rating of 400,000 Btu per hour and the rest of the building.

LTBC 3303.a

Every building or usable portion thereof shall have at least one exit and not less than two exits where required by the building code.

UBC 3302.a (Table 33A)

To find occupancy load and the number and width of exits required, divide total square feet of room or building by these factors:

Classrooms	= 20
Nurseries	= 35
School shops	= 50
Vocational areas	= 50
Assembly areas	= 7 Auditoriums, stadiums, dance floors
Assembly areas	= 15 Conference rooms, dining rooms, gymnasiums, stages

Example = Classroom size 40 X 50 = 2000 Sq. Ft. divided by 20 = occupant load of 100.
To find required exits = 100 divided by 50 = 2' of exit width.
Minimum width is 3' or one door.

Example = Gymnasium 75 X 75 = 5625 Sq. Ft. divided by 15 = occupant load of 375.
Required exits = 375 divided by 50 = 8' of exit width.

UBC 3303.b

Exit width required is the total width of exits in feet which shall not be less than total occupancy load divided by 50. Such exit widths shall be divided approximately equally among the separate exits.

UBC 3304.b

Exit doors shall be of the pivoted or side hinged swinging type. Exit doors serving 50 or more occupants shall swing in the direction of exit travel.

UBC 3304.c

Exit doors shall be openable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort.

UBC 3304.c

Manually operated edge or surface mounted flush bolts and surface bolts are prohibited. When exit doors are used in pairs and approved automatic flush bolts are used, the door leaf having the automatic flush bolts shall have no door knob or surface mounted hardware. The unlatching of any leaf shall not require more than one operation.

UBC 3319.e

Every exit doorway shall be a door of not less than 3 feet in width and not less than 6 feet 8 inches in height.

UBC 3319.e

The width of a corridor in a Group E Division 1 occupancy shall be not less than 6 feet. When the number of occupants is 100 or less, the corridor may be 44 inches wide.

UBC 3319.j

Exit doors from rooms having an occupant load of 50 or more and from corridors shall not be provided with a latch or lock unless it is panic hardware.

UBC 3319.e

Corridor walls and ceilings shall be of not less than one hour fire resistive construction with openings protected as required. (When each room has at least one exit door directly to the exterior at ground level, one hour construction of corridor wall and ceilings is not required.)

UBC 3319.k

School grounds may be fenced and gates therein equipped with locks, provided safe dispersal areas are located not less than 50 feet from the buildings. Dispersal areas shall be sized to provide an area of not less than 3 square feet per occupant.

UBC 3319.c

The distance from any point in a room shall be not more than 75 feet from an exit corridor, an enclosed stairway or the exterior of the building.

Exceptions: 1. In buildings not more than two stories in height and protected throughout with smoke detectors the distance may be increased to 90 feet.

2. In buildings protected throughout by an automatic sprinkler system, the distance may be increased to 110 feet.

UBC 3319.g

Exit stairs serving an occupant load of 100 or more in a Group E occupancy should have a minimum clear width of 5 feet.

UBC 3802.e.1

Group E occupancies with basements larger than 1500 square feet in floor area shall have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed.

UBC 3802.e.2

Group E occupancies shall have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed in enclosed usable space below or over a stairway.